

Army's Demonstration of How to Kill

By Drew Pearson

Various people have been telephoning me about an Army exhibition on how to murder people in cold blood, called "Torch-light Tattoo," which is being staged weekly in front of the Jefferson - Memorial. Spectators seemed to think this demonstration of death was not the thing to show young people; so I sent an assistant, Lewis Katz, down to witness the simulated blood-letting first hand.



Pearson

He reported that the purpose of the military circus was to sell the public on the Army. The program began with one soldier attacking another from behind and strangling him with piano wire. As the strangulation started, the Army announcer said:

"The garrote: Some people feel that it's old-fashioned, but when pulled taut and twisted violently, I can assure you it's most effective." (Laughter from audience.)

Then another soldier sneaked up and lunged with a huge sword at an unsuspecting Vietcong (played by a Ranger).

Says the announcer:

"The machete: Usually used

for clearing underbrush but its sharp blade can always be used to kill a man." At that moment a sharp grunt is heard from the "dying Vietcong."

Then two men demonstrated the art of killing with a knife. The announcer kindly explained:

"Another traditional weapon is the knife. It can be used either as a bayonet or as a hand weapon. To be most effective, the knife fighter must know two things: How to hold the knife—therefore the proper grip on the handle; and, more important, the most vulnerable parts of the human body on which to use the knife—therefore the face, stomach and the throat. (Another soldier pointed out these areas with a knife.) Thus a quick thrust to the side of the neck, the throat slash or a thrust to the kidney will get the job done."

Concluding the program, the announcer showed the art of killing with the hands and feet, by pointing out the most vulnerable areas of the body which when hit will cripple or kill the victim.

Finally, the announcer offered this joking advice: "We would like to caution the youngsters in the audience not to try any of these techniques on their friends or even

on their parents because someone might get hurt."

Army's Explanation

Next day, we called the commanding officer of the 3d Infantry, Col. Joseph Conmy, director of the program, to ask why, in view of the Nation's concern over juvenile crime and TV violence, the Army had to demonstrate so blatantly the art of killing.

"This show has been seen by over a hundred thousand, and yours is the first complaint," replied Col. Conmy. "I just never thought of this aspect of it before. All we were doing was showing the training of an everyday soldier."

"Yes, but did you take into consideration that our national crime rate is climbing and that this sort of performance not only hardens our people to violence, but also may train them in it?" Col. Conmy was asked.

"Well, I'm certainly not in the business of training killers in the civilian world," he replied. "What you say is food for thought."

Later, Col. Patrick Klein, deputy director of D.C. Army Information, telephoned. "They only showed how to use karate and judo, and this type of exercise is healthy for the public," he explained.

Mail Bag

Ralph Nader, Washington, D.C. — The explanation of

Speaker Anthony Travia of the New York Legislature for opposing the \$300,000 for the design phase of the prototype safety automobile is that it was not supported by Gov. Rockefeller, only weakly supported by the New York Department of Motor Vehicles, and was leading up to a \$3.5 million appropriation for the third stage of building the car.

Travia felt this should be borne by the Federal Government, not the State of New York.

The New York Legislature has passed a law providing for the reception of Federal funds to help build the safety car, which would act as a guideline for the Detroit automobile industry in constructing shock-proof and collision-proof automobiles.

Speaker Travia says he is just as anxious to build a collision-proof automobile as State Sen. Edward Speno. But he thinks the Federal Government must come in for a large share of the cash; that it cannot be borne by New York State alone.

We find no evidence that Speaker Travia has been close to the automobile lobby.

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Drew Pearson will predict whether there will be an auto strike, over WTOP radio tonight at 6:40.